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RCE 1714

PTO/SB/30 (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002OMB0651-0031

U. S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. §132, effective on May 29, 2000,
provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application
filed on or after June 8, 1995.
See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

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|------------------------|----------------|
| Application Number | 09/884,306 |
| Filing Date | June 19, 2001 |
| First Named Inventor | Starnes et al. |
| Group Art Unit | 1714 |
| Examiner Name | P. Szekely |
| Attorney Docket Number | EP-1020-CIP |

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. §1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47(Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. §1.114

- a. ☒ Previously submitted
- i. ☒ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 previously filed on November 26, 2003
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- iii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☒ Other Request for One-Month Extension of Time

2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other _____

3. Fees

The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. §1.114 when the RCE is filed*

- a. ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. _____
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e)
- ii. ☒ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§1.136 and 1.17)
- iii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$880.00 enclosed
- c. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment in the total fees indicated above to my deposit account 08-3150.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------|
| Name (Print/Type) | Daniel J. Hudak, Jr. | Registration No. | 47,669 |
| Signature | <i>Daniel J. Hudak, Jr.</i> | (Attorney/Agent) Date: January 27, 2004 | |

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Name (Print/Type) | Daniel J. Hudak, Jr. | Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) | 47,669 |
| Signature | <i>Daniel J. Hudak, Jr.</i> | Date: January 27, 2004 | |